

TWENTY U. S. TROOPERS SLAIN IN MEXICAN CLASH

Washington Realizes Situation Has Become Grave

NEWS OF CLASH
CAUSES FEARS
FOR THE FUTURE

FROM MEXICAN
OFFICERS NEWS
OF CLASH COMES

CARRANZA'S NEXT STEP
IS ANXIOUSLY AWAITED
BY U. S. GOVERNMENT

SEVERE LOSSES
ON BOTH SIDES
ARE ADMITTED

AMERICAN SCOUTING PARTY
SURPRISED BY GOMEZ FORCE
SEVERAL MILES FROM BASE

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

EL PASO, Tex., June 21.—American and Carranza troops fought a bloody battle today only a few hours after President Wilson's six thousand word rebuke yesterday to General Carranza had gone forward to Mexico City. With which side victory rested is not known.

The engagement took place on the Santo Domingo ranch near the Mexican town of Carrizal, which is nine miles southwest of Villa Ahumada, the Mexican field headquarters in northern Chihuahua. The number of dead, American or Mexican, was not definitely known tonight, but nearly a score of General Pershing's men are said to have been killed and the Mexicans are said to have lost more than two score.

Seventeen Americans are declared by Mexican officials to have been captured and to have been hurried to Chihuahua City under adequate guard. A machine gun used by the Mexicans is reported to have done heavy execution.

The Americans engaged are thought to have been members of a troop from the Tenth cavalry, a negro regiment, returning from a scouting trip to Guzman. The size of the Mexican force, whose commander, General Felix Gomez, was killed, is not known.

News of the battle was received in Juarez early this afternoon by General Francisco Gonzales, Carranza commander of the military zone of the border. For some reason or other, General Gonzales kept the story secret until late in the afternoon, when an American, J. C. Huppel, returning to the border from the interior, brought to El Paso the news that he had seen numbers of Mexican dead along the Mexican Central railroad track at Villa Ahumada, and had been told that there had been an encounter with the "gringos."

General Gonzales' first step after confirming the news was to issue a statement placing the blame on the American commander. He charged that the American troops fired first on the Mexicans and that their shots were directed at a courier who had just presented to them a request that they retire.

American army officers declared absolute disbelief tonight in General Gonzales' assertions. The opinion was expressed that if the Americans fired on the Mexicans they did so because it was necessary in order to insure their own safety. General Trevino's recent warning to General Pershing not to send his troops east, south or west of their positions was recalled.

Excitement spread in El Paso as extras were issued and the news became known. Quiet was maintained, however, in view of General Bell's frequent admonitions that his soldiers could take care of any situation that would arise. While awaiting instructions from headquarters at San Antonio, General Bell kept his entire force in readiness for instant action.

In the meantime, however, word came from Juarez that all was quiet, although the news of the battle was wide spread there.

At an early hour tonight the only details of the engagement received here came from Mexican side of the river. General Gonzales said that his information was transmitted to him from Villa Ahumada by Colonel Genovezo Rivas, who commanded the Mexicans after their leader, General Gomez, was slain. General Gonzales also gave the Mexican explanation of how the two forces came in contact.

According to General Gonzales, he was informed by General Gomez at Villa Ahumada last night of the presence of the Americans westward between Villa Ahumada and El Valle. He says he immediately instructed General Gomez to proceed to the Santo Domingo ranch, where the Americans were reported "in unknown force," and advise their commander to retire to their camp.

This, he says, General Gomez did this morning. The American commander, whose name was not given by General Gomez, is said to have replied that he was instructed to proceed to Villa Ahumada and must do so.

Whichever side began the engagement, the Mexicans had the advantage for they provided with a machine gun, and this is supposed to have done deadly execution in the ranks of the Americans. That the latter were not inefficient, however, was proved by the number of Mexican dead and wounded removed to Villa Ahumada and witnessed by Americans coming north on a train bound to Juarez.

The battle began about 10:30 a. m. and lasted not more than an hour. It apparently ended by both sides withdrawing. The failure of General Pershing to report on it, indicates that the American survivors had not yet returned to their base at an early hour tonight.

A story brought to El Paso by J. C. Hubble an American who has been employed by the Compania Agricola at Boquillas, bears out several of the details of the engagement presented by General Gomez. Hubble's story was

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
WASHINGTON, June 21.—Reports that American and Carranza troops had clashed aroused grave apprehension here tonight for future relations between the United States and the Mexican de facto government already strained almost to the breaking point.

Officials declined to make any prophecy as to the next step of the Washington government, saying that until details of the incident had been cleared up, it could not be determined whether a crisis had been precipitated. They made no effort to conceal their anxiety, but were not ready to abandon hope that an official account of what happened at Carrizal would remove the more threatening elements of the situation.

If it were a deliberate attempt to back up the Carranza edict by force, there seems little doubt that President Wilson will accept it as an act of war and make good his word in the latest communication to the de facto government in which he said that any such attempt would be followed by "the gravest consequences."

Whatever the outcome of the official investigation, however, it was admitted on every hand that the incident presented a grave menace to the cause of friendly relations and brought the Mexican situation to perhaps the most serious stage it has assumed in the many months of uncertainty.

President Wilson remained at his office until late tonight receiving such meager information on the subject as was obtainable.

Secretary Baker was in close touch with the war department and the White House. There was every evidence that credence was given the report, though the report came from Mexican sources and there was full realization of what it might mean. The Mexican story of the fight as given to General Bell by Consul Garcia at El Paso was forwarded to the war department by General Funston without comment. The wording of the dispatch led to the announcement by department officials that the reports had received confirmation from American sources. A complete copy, however, revealed that General Bell had no information except that given him by the Mexican consul. While it was not accepted in that form as final confirmation, officials indicated that they had no doubt some sort of clash had occurred though they did not believe the consul's report that American troops had violated their orders and made an attack.

No Word from Pershing
COLUMBUS, June 21.—Military authorities here late tonight announced that no reports from General Pershing of the engagement at Carrizal had been received over the army wireless. They were inclined to place some credence
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GENERAL BELL TELLS FUNSTON MEXICAN VERSION OF THE FIGHT

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
SAN ANTONIO, June 21.—General Funston received late tonight from General Bell at El Paso, the Mexican version of a fight today between a detachment of General Pershing's troops and troops of the de facto government at Carrizal, nine miles southwest of Ahumada.

A slightly different version was brought to El Paso by an American, who passed through Ahumada and there heard Mexicans boasting that they had decimated the Americans into an action by the use of a flag of truce.

The casualties on neither side were reported by General Bell, whose information was received from Andres Garcia, Mexican consul at El Paso, who gave it at the request of General Gonzales, commander at Juarez. General Gonzales had received the report from Ahumada, a station on the Mexican Central railway, that connects Chihuahua City, the capital of the state, with the border. The wounded were taken to Ahumada.

From the Americans who passed through Ahumada at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, General Bell learned that the Mexicans believed the American force to have been a detachment of the Tenth cavalry. General Funston said tonight no orders changing the situation would be issued to General Pershing or to General Bell until he had received the official report from General Pershing.

Pershing Redeploying Force
COLUMBUS, N. M., June 21.—General Pershing, the American expeditionary commander, is redeploying his entire force as a result of today's

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
EL PASO, June 21.—Consul Garcia announced over the telephone from Juarez late tonight that he had received official reports confirming the fact that the American command engaged was a part of the Tenth cavalry, a negro regiment. He had had no details, however, as to the number of Americans or Mexicans engaged, he said.

Later General Francisco Gonzales, Mexican commander at Juarez, gave out a statement in which he announced officially that the Mexican command had taken seventeen American prisoners. He also said that General Gomez' death had been confirmed, but said he had no official reports as to the number of casualties on either side. The wounded, both American and Mexican, the exact number of whom is not known here, were taken to Villa Ahumada.

General Gonzales made the following statement:

"Immediately upon learning of the presence of the American troops in the vicinity of Carrizal, General Felix Gomez dispatched a messenger with a request that the American commander withdraw from his camp. When the American troops remained motionless he sent a second dispatch, where, who was fired upon by the American troops, after he had delivered his message. The Americans immediately moved forward and attacked General Gomez' command."

"All the prisoners admitted that the blame should be put upon the American commander for having ordered the attack. The prisoners were sent to Chihuahua with the customary protection."

General Gonzales said that the report of the engagement was made to him by Lieutenant Colonel Genovezo Rivas, who succeeded to the command of the Carrancistas with the fall of General Gomez.

General Bell received reports which he was unable to confirm that the American command engaged was a

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ORDERS PRISONERS TAKEN TO CHIHUAHUA

CHIHUAHUA CITY, Mex., June 21.—Orders were issued by General Jacinto Trevino, commanding the Carranza army of the north, to bring the seventeen Americans captured today at Carrizal to Chihuahua City under a heavy guard. Reports here place the entire blame for the encounter upon the American command, it being asserted that in the eight hours preceding the engagement several warnings were sent them to withdraw.

The populace of the city, which remained quiet tonight, expressed much sorrow of the death of General Gomez, who was one of the youngest and most popular leaders of the de facto army.

clash with Carrancistas at Carrizal according to reports from the field tonight. Heavy forces, ready for immediate action, are being concentrated at Namiquite, 280 miles south of the border, and at Colonia Dublan, 129 miles south. Dispatches said also that American scouting patrols have penetrated the Santa Clara canyon, about 35 miles directly east of Namiquite.

General Funston Reports On The Carrizal Clash

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
WASHINGTON, June 21.—General Funston reported late tonight that he had received official notification of a clash between Carranza and American troops early today, near Carrizal, Mexico. He had no details of the incident, however, except those provided by Mexican officials at Juarez.

General Funston transmitted to the war department the following report from General Bell at El Paso:

"Mexican Consul Garcia telephoned me at 6 p. m. as follows: 'There was a clash at Carrizal, near Villa Ahumada, between Carranza and American troops in which General Gomez and other Mexicans were killed the number unknown. Number of Americans killed or wounded unknown.'

"General Gomez sent a captain with an order to the American commander to go back, but the American commander said he was going to the

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
WASHINGTON, June 21.—Some information as to what General Carranza's next step would be expected hourly tonight at the state department. Official advisers report that the American rejection of the demand for the recall of General Pershing's troops from Mexico was under consideration today by the first chief and his cabinet.

Special Agent Rodgers who made the report was unable to forecast the action of the de facto government and threw little light on what was going on in the Mexican capital. From other sources it was learned that European diplomats are exerting pressure on Carranza to prevent him from going to war with the United States.

The sentence allies are particularly anxious, it is understood, that nothing should occur at this time to shut off the oil supplies for the French and British navies from the Tampico fields.

Allied diplomats in Mexico say that the Germans have been working on Carranza to create a situation that might embarrass the enemies of the central powers. They have asserted that German agencies have been active in stirring up feeling against the United States not only in Mexico, but throughout South and Central America, to prevent this country from securing trade formerly controlled by German merchants.

It is understood that the diplomats have pointed out to General Carranza that the American note only declines to consider immediately, any suggestion that its troops be withdrawn from Mexico, and that it quotes a portion of the agreement between General Scott and General Obregon, providing among other things, for the

gradual withdrawal of the American forces.

Another suggestion is that the dispute over the border conditions could well be referred to an internal commission under the treaty of 1848 between both countries.

The state department had no official reports of the peace-making efforts in Mexico City, although it has been informed indirectly of what is transpiring. It is believed the assurances contained in Secretary Lansing's note that the United States would war on Mexico only if driven to it by attacks, have been repeated to diplomatic callers seeking information. These assurances may have paved the way for the representations being made to Carranza, urging him not to force the issue he has raised.

A study of all General Carranza's communications and actions during

(Continued on Page Two)

BATTALION OF ARIZONA MILITIA SENT TO NOGALES ON APPEAL FROM CITIZENS

DOUGLAS, Ariz., June 21.—One battalion of the Arizona militia and a battalion of the Fourteenth United States infantry were sent to Nogales, Ariz., tonight on a special train. The militia consisted of companies I, K, L, and M. The soldiers were sent in response to an appeal from citizens at Nogales.

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
NOGALES, Ariz., June 21.—Reinforcements for the fifteen hundred American troops here have been ordered and will arrive tomorrow. It was stated on good authority tonight. Trains have been ordered in readiness to convey several detachments of regulars and part of the Arizona National Guard from Tucson.

Pablo Fontes, paymaster in General Calles' army, was released here tonight and allowed to cross over to the Mexican side after he had been lodged in jail on a charge of recruiting for the Carranza army. The release was made after a conference between Colonel W. H. Sage, ranking officer here, and Mexican Consul Delgado.

T. B. Encinas, a Mexican who has been in business on this side of the line for a number of years, and charged with complicity in Fontes' operations, was lodged in the county jail later and was still held tonight. Fontes is said to have had a large sum in cash on his person, and to have had a long list of Mexican residents from whom he was to try to enlist with the amount suggested as a bonus in each case.

Mexicans Concentrating
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]
DOUGLAS, Ariz., June 21.—Mexican soldiers, in larger numbers than ever noticed before, "are being concentrated at points along the railroad leading from the border here to Nogales, 75 miles south, according to the statements of American mining men arriving here today from El Tigre, Moctezuma and other points in Sonora, south of here."

The Mexican forces, according to the arrivals, apparently were making every preparation to resist a possible advance along the railroad by soldiers of the United States in the event of hostilities. Many of the score or more of Americans who arrived from the mining camps of Sonora were searched three or four times by Mexican officers before reaching the border.

At Esquema, where those en route from El Tigre awaited today's train for Agua Prieta, one mining man who carried a revolver and three boxes of cartridges, was placed under guard until the arrival of the train. It was said. The Mexican officers then escorted him to the train.

The Mexican officials took especial care to show courtesy toward the refugees at several points along the route to the border, where all baggage was carefully inspected, according to the Americans arriving on the one train to Agua Prieta today.

Sixteen American employees' remain at the El Tigre mines yesterday when the majority of the employees departed, but they were to leave there today in two automobiles, and were expected to reach here tonight or tomorrow. A few citizens of the United States remain at scattered camps south of the railroad, but most of them were expected to reach the border within a day or two.

As the Americans were coming north they stated they passed large numbers of Mexican families making their way toward the interior of Sonora. Some were traveling in wagons, others on horses, burros and mules and still others were walking, carrying their bundles of bedding and followed by a nondescript variety of dogs. During the day a number of Mexican

ONLY SIXTY MILES
FROM TUCSON CITY

TUCSON, Ariz., June 21.—Advices to the sheriff's office here today reported the presence of 250 Carranza soldiers at Sasabe, on the Arizona-Sonora line, only sixty miles from Tucson. Sasabe is but a small Mexican port of entry, and the presence of the force of soldiers there is unexplained. Tucson is protected by a well-organized force of home guards, which is on the alert tonight, and tomorrow there will be recruited a company of mounted guards and an automobile corps for the quick transportation of the home defense forces to any part of the country.

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Another suggestion is that the dispute over the border conditions could well be referred to an internal commission under the treaty of 1848 between both countries.

The state department had no official reports of the peace-making efforts in Mexico City, although it has been informed indirectly of what is transpiring. It is believed the assurances contained in Secretary Lansing's note that the United States would war on Mexico only if driven to it by attacks, have been repeated to diplomatic callers seeking information. These assurances may have paved the way for the representations being made to Carranza, urging him not to force the issue he has raised.

A study of all General Carranza's communications and actions during

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[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN ANTONIO, June 21.—Severe losses on both sides is the result of a fight between United States troops and Mexican soldiers today at Carrizal, nine miles south of Ahumada. The Americans in the engagement were a detachment of the Tenth cavalry, a negro organization, and a force of Carranza troops under General Felix Gomez, who was killed in the fight.

General Pershing has been unable to get to General Funston late tonight any report of the engagement, but there appeared no reason to doubt the report from Mexican sources that a serious engagement had taken place.

Instead of the tension being broken by the clash, it was kept still higher tonight and there appeared no probability that it would be lessened until the official report from General Pershing was received or until official news of undisputed aggression of the same Mexican troops is received.

General Funston said he would send no special orders to General Bell, commanding at El Paso, or to General Pershing until he had received official news.

The Mexican commander at Juarez, General Francisco Gonzales, insisted that the American commander precipitated the fight by firing on the bearers of a white flag who were moving forward to parley. A report brought to El Paso late today by an American indicated that the Americans had been led into an ambush by the use of a white flag.

The meager details of the fight received by General Funston included the facts that General Felix Gomez, commanding the Mexicans, was among the killed, that the casualties on both sides were considerable and the indication that the Americans had fallen back.

It was admitted at army headquarters that General Funston's determination not to send any special orders to General Pershing or General Bell did not mean that swift punitive action would not be undertaken.

It was regarded as not at all improbable that even already General Pershing may have taken steps to even the score. Many officers at department headquarters believe that if he had not already sent a heavy force towards Ahumada he would do so on receipt of the news and knowledge of the number of men he has in a state of preparedness.

From Brownsville to the Pacific, General Funston's army of 40,000 were ready tonight for any emergency and officers at department headquarters were counting the hours it would take to bring south units of the national guardsmen.

URGES EL PASOANS
TO REMAIN CALM

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

EL PASO, June 21.—Tom Lea, mayor of El Paso, issued a statement tonight in which he urged the people of the city to remain calm in the crisis. He said:

"The military and civil authorities have made every preparation to protect El Paso in any eventuality and no cause for alarm should be found in the reported engagement between American and Mexican forces at Carrizal."

"Business is progressing in the normal way and there is absolutely no cause for apprehension for the safety of any person in this city."

Machine guns were placed on the American side of the two international bridges here tonight and the military guard was doubled. Few persons crossed the river in either direction during the night and there were no disturbances.

NEWS IS SUPPRESSED

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

NOGALES, Ariz., June 21.—Reports of the engagement between American and Mexican forces south of El Paso were suppressed here tonight at the request of the military authorities. It was feared that publication of the reports might excite the Mexican residents of the American town, who compose two-thirds of the population.

Mexican Vice Consul Sarabia here sent a message to a citizens' mass meeting, held in the Arizona town tonight protesting that Mexican troops have no intention of attacking Nogales. He offered to escort any committee of Americans twenty miles south of the border to satisfy residents that no troops were being assembled. The offer was accepted and a committee of five appointed to make the trip early in the morning.

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